



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

September 11, 2015

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

[CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov)

860-713-6860

### Connecticut State Department of Education Web Sites

Visit and bookmark the following Student Assessment Web sites.

Student Assessment	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/sde/StudentAssessment">www.ct.gov/sde/StudentAssessment</a>
CMT & CAPT Science	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/sde/CMT&amp;CAPTScience">www.ct.gov/sde/CMT&amp;CAPTScience</a>
Connecticut Alternate Assessments	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/sde/CTAA">www.ct.gov/sde/CTAA</a>
Special Population Documentation and Resources	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/sde/SpecialPopulationResources">www.ct.gov/sde/SpecialPopulationResources</a>
CSDE Smarter Balanced	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced">www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced</a>
Smarter Balanced Digital Library	<a href="https://www.SmarterBalancedLibrary.org">https://www.SmarterBalancedLibrary.org</a>
CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal	<a href="http://ct.portal.airast.org">http://ct.portal.airast.org</a>
SAT	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/sde/SAT">www.ct.gov/sde/SAT</a>

### Connecticut State Department of Education Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal

The [Connecticut State Department of Education Comprehensive Assessment Portal](#) provides access to test administration resources. To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

[Register for email updates](#)

### Support for Special Populations

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) continues to prepare teachers to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics. One component of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System includes understanding, selecting and providing access to the assessments. To assist administrators and teachers working with general education students, students with disabilities and students who are English learners, two optional professional learning opportunities are available.

The CSDE also continues to prepare teachers to administer the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) in English language arts and mathematics and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science to students identified with significant cognitive disabilities. Similar to last year, any teacher who has the primary responsibility for assessing students in Grades 3 – 8 and 11 on the CTAA and/or the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science for students in Grades 5, 8 and 10 are required to participate in training offered by the CSDE. This training requirement does not apply to teachers who qualified in the 2014-15 CSDE Live or Online CTAA & CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Training.

The [Smarter Balanced, CTAA and CMT/CAPT Science Training letter](#) provides detailed information about these trainings.



### Individual Student Reports

Paper copies of Individual Student Reports (ISR) for Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy and mathematics should arrive in district by Friday, September 11, 2015. Two copies of each student's ISR will be provided, one to send to parents/guardians and the other for the student's permanent record. Approved Private Special Education Programs will receive ISRs for students who they tested. Contact the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Help Desk at 844-202-7583 if the shipment has not been received by September 11.

By early October, districts/schools should receive paper copies of [Parent Brochures](#) to accompany these reports.

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## Online Reporting System Training Webinar

The Connecticut State Department of Education in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) will provide an Online Reporting System (ORS) training on Monday, September 21, 2015 from 3 – 4 p.m. This webinar will provide a demonstration of the ORS to access 2015 Smarter Balanced test results. This webinar is available to all Connecticut educators. [Register](#) for the webinar by September 20. After registering, a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar will be sent.

## Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments for mathematics and English language arts (ELA)/literacy will be available to students in Grades 3 – 8 from October 9, 2015, through June 10, 2016. The interim assessments are one of the three components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System—along with the end-of-year summative assessments in ELA/literacy and mathematics and a Digital Library of formative assessment tools and practices that supports classroom instruction.

**Purpose:** The Interim Assessments provide teachers with an additional resource that measures students' mastery of specific content and skills aligned to the [Connecticut Core Standards](#). While there is no better place to learn these skills than being part of a dynamic and interactive classroom setting, teachers can use the Interim Assessments throughout the year to inform instruction by measuring student progress, identify areas of strength and weakness, and assess skills of incoming students.

**Flexibility:** The optional Interim Assessments are administered on a computer using the same test delivery system as the summative assessments. The scope, sequence, number, and timing of the Interim Assessments are determined at the district level. A teacher may administer an Interim Assessment that is above or below the student's current grade level. An above grade-level assessment might be used by a teacher to assess students who are receiving instruction with curriculum aligned to above grade-level standards. A below grade-level assessment might be used by a teacher who wants to assess students who are struggling with grade-level content to identify areas of weakness in prior learning.

**Two Types:** The Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICA) are similar to the summative assessments in length, content, and format. Each content area ICA has two parts, a grade-level ICA and an ICA performance task. The Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) are shorter assessments that focus on smaller sets of related concepts. The [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Statement of Purpose](#) document provides the current IABs available.

**Scoring:** Both the ICA and the IAB contain test items that are scored by the test delivery engine. There are also short-text constructed response and full-write items, both of which are hand-scored at the district level. Training materials will be available in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and on the Teacher Hand Scoring System. In-depth workshops about the purpose, uses, and scoring of the Interim Assessments are being presented across the state. For information about the Interim Assessment Workshops, visit [ctcorestandards.org](http://ctcorestandards.org).

**Test Items:** The test items on the Interim Assessments are developed under the same conditions, protocols, and review procedures as those used in the summative assessments. Therefore, they assess the same Connecticut Core Standards, adhere to the same principles of Universal Design in order to be accessible to all students, and provide evidence to support Smarter Balanced claims in mathematics and ELA/literacy. The items in the Interim Assessments are non-secure but non-public. This means that educators may view the items; however, they should not be made public outside of classroom, school, or district.

For more information on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments, visit the [Smarter Balanced Web site](#).

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## TIDE and ORS Downtimes



The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) will be down for maintenance from September 26 through October 5, 2015. **The Online Reporting System (ORS) will be down for maintenance from October 3 – 18, 2015.**

## TIDE User Accounts and District Testing Contacts

In the coming months, the MI Web Portal will no longer be available for district use. The Student Assessment Office will be identifying District Administrator (DA) roles based on who is currently identified as the District Test Coordinator in the MI Web Portal. When TIDE reopens on October 6, 2015, each district will only have **one** DA account. The single DA will be the primary district contact for all information pertaining to CMT/CAPT Science, (including Skills Checklist), the Connecticut Alternate Assessment, and Smarter Balanced. Upon first log in after October 6, DAs will have to verify all prepopulated contact and shipping information. This information will be used by the Student Assessment Office and its testing vendor to communicate with each district. District Administrators may reassign other DA users to a District Coordinator (DC) role.

On October 6, 2015, all TIDE users will receive an e-mail to reset their passwords. A system reset of all TIDE users maintains security within the TIDE. District Administrators, District Coordinators and/or School Coordinators should delete any users who should no longer have TIDE accounts.

## REMINDERS:

Access the [September 2 Student Assessment News](#) for information about the following:



- Individual Student Reports
- Connecticut's Comprehensive Assessment Program Public Reporting Site
- Smarter Balanced Secure Browser
- Support for Special Populations
- Governor Malloy Announces Approval to Reduce Standardized Testing for Grade 11 Students
- Digital Library Spotlight Webinar and Forum Series
- Digital Library Accounts
- Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science Results
- Smarter Balanced Results Toolkit and Supports
- The What, the How and the Why of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Workshops

## 2015-16 Important Dates

Online Reporting System Training Webinar	September 21, 2015
TIDE Down for Maintenance	September 26 – October 5, 2015
ORS Down for Maintenance	October 3 – October 18, 2015
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window	October 9, 2015 – June 10, 2016
National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Results	<i>Coming Soon</i>
District Test Coordinator Workshops	<i>Tentative</i> January 19 – 22, 2016
Summative Assessment Calendar	<i>Coming Soon</i>

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The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of **race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction.** Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

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